

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-6 and 12-13 are amended. Claims 4 and 15 are canceled. Claims 1-3, 5-14, and 16-20 remain pending in the application. Claims 8-11 and 17-20 are allowed. Claims 1-3, 12-14 and 16 are rejected. Claims 4-7 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 5-7 are dependent to claim 4, therefore, are objected under the same rationale.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicants have deleted the “wherein the security level is directly related to said software object” element claim from claims 1, 12 and 13. Applicants are not conceding that the Examiner’s §112 rejection is proper. At least in light of the current amendments to claims 1, 12 and 13, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner’s §112 rejection of claims 1, 12 and 13 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

Claims 1-3, 12-14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 4,926,476 (*Covey*), in view of US Patent 5,578,090 (*Motoyama*), and further in view of US Patent No. 5,822,749 (*Agarwal*). Applicants respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate that the Examiner has allowed claims 8-11 and 17-20. Further, Applicants appreciate that claims 4, 15, 5-7 contain allowable subject matter, as indicated by the Examiner. Applicants have amended the rejected independent claims (1, 12 and 13) to include subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for immediate allowance.

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. In light of the arguments presented above, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, **the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Houston, Texas telephone number (713) 934-4069** to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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